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Phylogenomics and a posteriori data partitioning resolve the Cretaceous angiosperm radiation Malpighiales

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Abstract: The angiosperm order Malpighiales includes 16,000 species and constitutes up to 40% of the understory tree diversity in tropical rain forests. Despite remarkable progress in angiosperm systematics during the last 20 y, relationships within Malpighiales remain poorly resolved, possibly owing to its rapid rise during the mid-Cretaceous. Using phylogenomic approaches, including analyses of 82 plastid genes from 58 species, we identified 12 additional clades in Malpighiales and substantially increased resolution along the backbone. This greatly improved phylogeny revealed a dynamic history of shifts in net diversification rates across Malpighiales, with bursts of diversification noted in the Barbados cherries (Malpighiaceae), cecropias (Erythroxylaceae), and passion flowers (Passifloraceae). We found that commonly used a priori approaches for partitioning concatenated data in maximum likelihood analyses, by gene or by codon position, performed poorly relative to the use of partitions identified a posteriori using a Bayesian mixture model. We also found better branch support in trees inferred from a taxon-rich, data-sparse matrix, which deeply sampled only the phylogenetically critical placeholders, than in trees inferred from a taxon-sparse matrix with little missing data. Although this matrix has more missing data, our a posteriori partitioning strategy reduced the possibility of producing multiple distinct but equally optimal topologies and increased phylogenetic decisiveness, compared with the strategy of partitioning by gene. These approaches are likely to help improve phylogenetic resolution in other poorly resolved major clades of angiosperms and to be more broadly useful in studies across the Tree of Life

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they represent 39 of the 42 families of Malpighiales (excluding Lophopyxidaceae, Malesherbiaceae, and Rafflesiaceae; *SI Appendix, SI Materials and Methods*) and relevant outgroups. To obtain the most comprehensive phylogenetic tree for the order, we used the **82-gene** matrix as a scaffold to which we added the existing taxon-rich but character-sparse **13-gene** matrix (186 taxa; 15,574 characters; 15% missing data) (3) to create our **combined-incomplete** matrix (Table 1). This matrix included 191 taxa and 91 genes (82 plastid genes, six mitochondrial genes, and three nuclear genes; 81,259 characters; 64% missing data). We also created a **combined-complete** matrix by reducing the taxon sampling in the **combined-incomplete** matrix to match the taxon sampling of the **82-gene** matrix. This greatly reduced the percentage of missing data cells in our alignment from 64% to 12%. The **combined-complete** matrix included 58 taxa and 91 genes (81,117 characters). Finally, we reanalyzed the **13-gene** matrix alone to determine the phylogenetic impact of adding the **82-gene** matrix. Each of the four matrices was analyzed using four different data partitioning strategies that are described below.

Relationships in Malpighiales. Our analyses produced a well-resolved phylogeny of Malpighiales (Fig. 1; relationships of outgroups provided in *SI Appendix, Fig. S1*). The maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian trees inferred from the **combined-incomplete** matrix are congruent with trees from the remaining three matrices (i.e., **82-gene**, **combined-complete**, and **13-gene**; *SI Appendix, Figs. S1–S17 and S26–S28*), using 75 ML bootstrap percentage (BP; as calculated using the standard bootstrap option in RAxML) and 0.95 Bayesian posterior probability (PP) thresholds. The 16 subclades of Malpighiales whose interrelationships were previously unresolved with respect to one another are resolved into three well-supported (>80 BP, 1.0 PP) clades. Moreover, we find comparable or greatly improved support for previously identified clades (3) and moderate to strong support for the 12 additional clades we identified (Fig. 1). Six of these clades were supported with >80 BP, 1.0 PP; two with ≥70 BP, >0.60 PP; and one with >60 BP, >0.95 PP. Importantly, each of the 12 clades is also united by morphological features (summarized in Table 2).

Clade 1 (85 BP, 1.0 PP) includes two major subclades: the euphorbioids (clade 4) and Humiriaceae + the parietal clade

sensu Wurdack and Davis (3) (clade 7). Surprisingly, the euphorbioid clade (64 BP, 0.61 PP) reunites most of the former Euphorbiaceae (including Euphorbiaceae, Peraceae, Phyllanthaceae, and Picrodendraceae but excluding Putranjivaceae) (13, 14) with the well-supported (96 BP, 1.0 PP) linoid clade (clade 6; Ixonanthaceae + Linaceae) we identified. Within the euphorbioids, the linoids are well-supported (clade 5; 84 BP, 1.0 PP) as sister to the phyllanthoids (Phyllanthaceae + Picrodendraceae; 100 BP, 1.0 PP). The second major subclade identified here, clade 7 (62 BP, 0.79 PP), includes Humiriaceae and the parietal clade (100 BP, 1.0 PP). Within the parietal clade, Goupiaceae is sister to Violaceae (clade 9; 75 BP, 0.62 PP). Also within the parietal clade, (Malesherbiaceae (Passifloraceae + Turneraceae)) is sister to the salicoids [clade 8; (Lacistemataceae (Samydaceae (Salicaceae + Scyphostegiaceae))]; 96 BP, 1.0 PP].

Clade 2 (83 BP, 1.0 PP) includes three subclades in a trichotomy. Its first major subclade, clade 10 (70 BP, 0.81 PP), includes the previously identified (6, 15) clusioid clade [(Bonnetiaceae + Clusiaceae) (Calophyllaceae (Hypericaceae + Podostemaceae))]; 100 BP, 1.0 PP] plus their sister group the ochnoids [(Ochnaceae (Medusagynaceae + Quiinaceae))]; 100 BP, 1.0 PP]. The second subclade in clade 2 is the recently identified (3) rhizophoroids [(Ctenolophonaceae (Erythroxylaceae + Rhizophoraceae))]; 100 BP, 1.0 PP]. The third subclade is the pandoids (clade 11; Irvingiaceae + Pandaceae; 64 BP, 0.97 PP).

Clade 3 (81 BP, 1.0 PP) consists of four subclades, three of which have been previously identified (3), in a polytomy. These four subclades are the chrysobalanoids [(Balanopaceae ((Chrysobalanaceae + Euphroniaceae) (Dichapetalaceae + Trigoniaceae))]; 100 BP, 1.0 PP], the malpighioids [clade 12; (Centroplacaceae (Elatinaceae + Malpighiaceae))]; 63 BP, 0.51 PP], the putranjivoids (Lophopyxidaceae + Putranjivaceae; 100 BP, 1.0 PP), and Caryocaraceae.

Improved Phylogenetic Resolution Results from a Posteriori Data Partitioning and Better Taxon Sampling. Several previous phylogenomic studies of angiosperms have applied a single substitution matrix in ML analyses to multiple-gene concatenated data sets (OnePart; e.g., refs. 8, 16, and 17). More recently, to better accommodate evolutionary rate heterogeneity across different characters, alignments have been partitioned a priori by gene (GenePart; e.g.,

Table 1. Characteristics of the four matrices and statistics of the best-scoring ML trees inferred from each of the four partitioning strategies

Matrix	Taxa/characters/ missing data %	Partitioning strategy	No. of partitions	Log- likelihood	AICc	ΔAICc	Coverage density	Fraction of triples	<i>D</i>	<i>d</i>	Terrace size
82-gene	58/72,828/17%	OnePart	1	−689042	1,378,328	166,322	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		GenePart	82	−680357	1,362,435	150,429	0.88	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		CodonPart	4	−680281	1,360,860	148,854	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		MixtPart	13	−605772	1,212,006	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
Combined-complete	58/81,117/12%	OnePart	1	−739270	1,478,784	193,023	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		GenePart	91	−728235	1,458,355	172,594	0.88	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		CodonPart	4	−730551	1,461,401	175,640	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		MixtPart	15	−642632	1,285,761	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
Combined-incomplete	191/81,259/64%	OnePart	1	−892791	1,786,362	234,881	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		GenePart	91	−879681	1,761,794	210,313	0.36	0.93	0.00	0.97	14,025
		CodonPart	4	−883407	1,767,647	216,166	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		MixtPart	20	−775178	1,551,481	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
13-gene	186/15,574/15%	OnePart	1	−292212	585,198	47,256	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		GenePart	13	−288145	577,294	39,352	0.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		CodonPart	4	−289988	580,807	42,865	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1
		MixtPart	14	−268460	537,942	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1

The MixtPart partitioning strategy is highlighted in bold to indicate that it produced the best log-likelihood and AICc values in each case. The fraction of triples is the fraction of all possible triples of taxa for which sequence data are present for at least some partitions of the matrix; *D* is the probability that a pattern of taxon coverage is decisive for a random binary tree; *d* is the average number of edges distinguishable on a random binary tree (further details in *SI Appendix, Materials and Methods*).

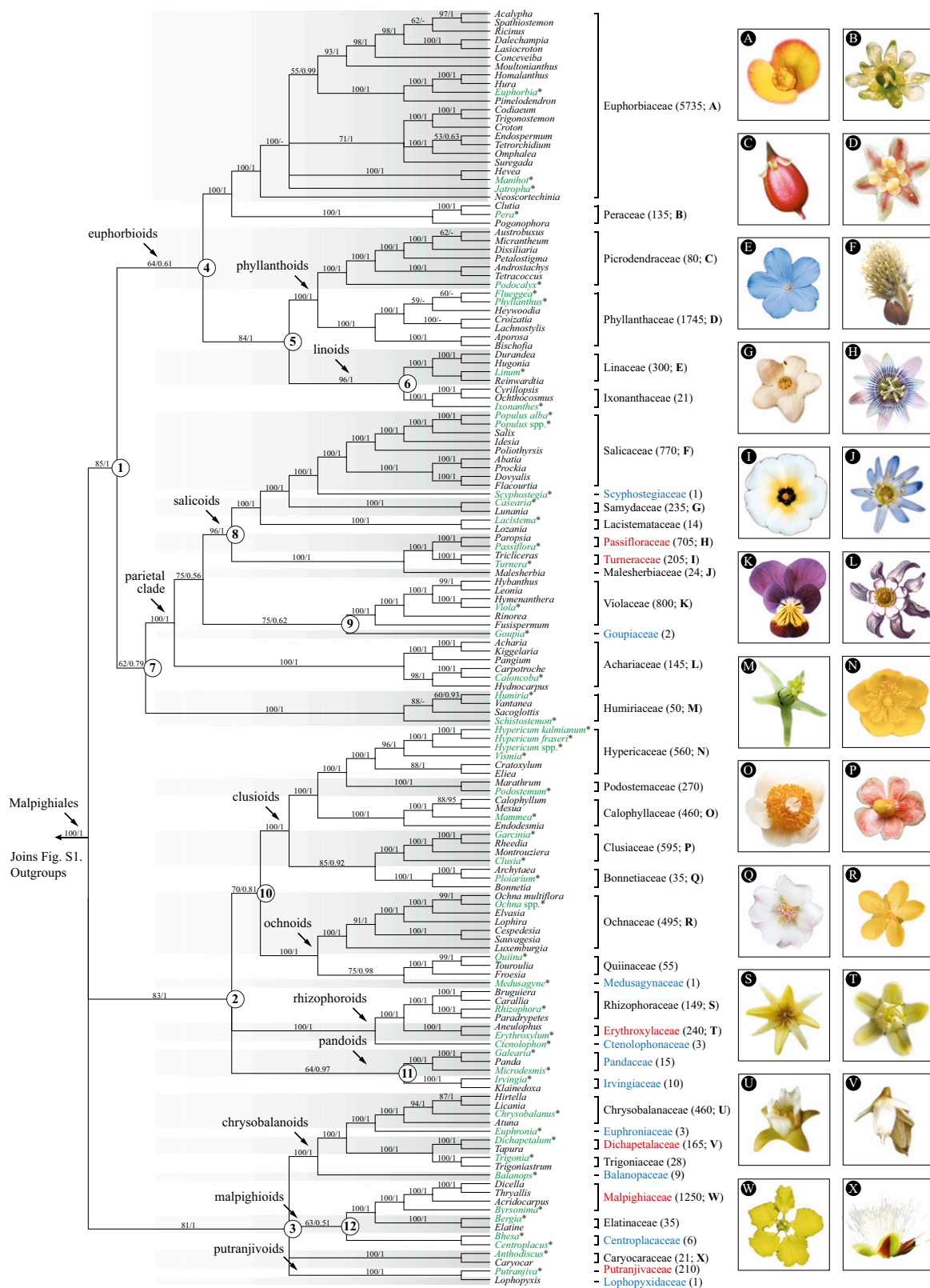


Fig. 1. ML 50% majority-rule bootstrap consensus tree of Malpighiales inferred from the *combined-incomplete* matrix using the MixtPart partitioning strategy. ML BPs/Bayesian PPs are indicated above each branch; a hyphen indicates that the node is not present in the Bayesian 50% majority-rule consensus tree. The 12 additional clades we identified are designated using the numbers corresponding to those in Table 2. Taxa included in the **82-gene** matrix are highlighted in green and marked with asterisks; spp. = composite terminals compiled from multiple closely related species; the approximate number of accepted species for each family is given in parentheses to the right; lettered photographs depicting representative species from all included families are shown to the right. Clades exhibiting a shift in net species diversification are highlighted in red (acceleration) and blue (deceleration). More detailed results of diversification analyses are provided in the text and *SI Appendix*. Outgroup relationships are shown in *SI Appendix*, Fig. S1.

Table 2. Morphological features for the 12 additional clades we identified in Malpighiales

Clade	Morphological features
1	Androgynophore; ovules mostly crassinucellar
2	Tendency to incompletely tenuinucellar ovules
3	Tendency to (oblique) floral monosymmetry in chrysobalanoids and Malpighiaceae; tendency to bulging of ovaries; placentation mostly axile; inner integument thicker than outer
4	Tendency to unisexual, trimerous flowers with reduced petals (not in Ixonanthaceae and Linaceae); petals, if present, often contort; placentation mostly axile; ovules 2 (more rarely 1) per carpel; antitropous, pendant, with obturator; inner integument thicker than outer
5	Tendency to false septa in carpels; placentation axile; ovules 2 per carpel, antitropous, pendant, with obturator; inner integument thicker than outer
6	Flowers bisexual; mostly diplostemonous; carpels with false septa
7	Flowers mostly haplostemonous (not in Humiriaceae); carpels often 3 (5 in <i>Humiria</i>); placentation parietal (not in Humiriaceae); ovules often more than 2 per carpel, crassinucellar, without endothelium; seeds often with aril (not in Humiriaceae)
8	Corona present in some families; placentation parietal; ovules mostly more than 2 per carpel, crassinucellar; seeds often with aril
9	Flowers haplostemonous; anthers with conspicuous appendages; nectary, if present, at outer base of stamens; ovules more than 2 per carpel
10	Petals often contort; mostly polystemonous; placentation mostly axile; ovules often incompletely tenuinucellar, with endothelium
11	Placentation axile; ovule 1 per carpel, antitropous
12	Placentation axile; ovules crassinucellar, without endothelium; sepals persistent in fruit

Data compiled from *SI Appendix*, SI refs. 24 and 28–34. Clades are labeled in Fig. 1 accordingly.

refs. 11 and 12) or by codon position (CodonPart; e.g., refs. 11 and 18). The GenePart approach creates a partition for each gene and estimates the substitution rate matrix parameters separately for each partition, resulting in up to 83 partitions for many plastid data sets. The CodonPart approach partitions characters according to codon position, with a fourth partition added for noncoding regions (if present). These partitioning strategies are somewhat arbitrary, assuming for example that all third codon positions evolve rapidly or that gene boundaries define a class of sites that are expected to share a similar model of molecular evolution. As an alternative, we explored the use of an a posteriori partitioning strategy for ML analyses based on the partitions inferred from Bayesian searches of the matrix using a mixture model approach (19). Using a reversible-jump implementation, the Bayesian mixture model estimates the number of substitution rate matrices that best fit an alignment by allowing the fitting of multiple rate matrices to each character separately (20). We used this approach to find the optimal number of partitions for each matrix and then defined the characters in each class as a partition for subsequent ML analyses (MixtPart).

Using MixtPart, we found that the optimal number of partitions was 13 for the *82-gene* matrix, 15 for the *combined-complete* matrix, and 20 for the *combined-incomplete* matrix. Thus, in all cases, defining the partitions on the basis of the mixture model search reduced the number of partitions substantially (from 82 for the *82-gene* and from 91 for the two combined matrices using GenePart). Notably, our results show that using MixtPart substantially improved the likelihood of the best-scoring ML tree as measured by the corrected Akaike information criterion (AICc) (21) for all four matrices (Table 1). For example, compared with the GenePart approach, the MixtPart approach increased the AICc values by 7–12%. MixtPart also outperformed the OnePart, GenePart, and CodonPart approaches with respect to improving the branch support as measured by BP values. To compare these BP values among trees with different taxon sets, the bipartition trees inferred from the *combined-incomplete* and *13-gene* matrices (*SI Appendix*, Figs. S10–S17) were pruned to match the taxon sampling of the *82-gene* and *combined-complete* matrices (*SI Appendix*, Figs. S18–S25). This revealed that the use of MixtPart resulted in an increase in mean BP values by 5–11%

(Fig. 2 and *SI Appendix*, Table S4) and most strikingly a mean increase in BP values by 20–49% for the 12 clades we identified (Fig. 3). It should be noted that the addition of our *82-gene* matrix alone was insufficient to resolve the deeper nodes of Malpighiales. Although it was helpful [e.g., mean BP values increased by 13% when comparing between the *82-* vs. *13-gene* MixtPart analyses (Fig. 2)], only 4 of these 12 clades were supported with >50 BP using OnePart, GenePart, and CodonPart, vs. 10 clades that were resolved with >50 BP using MixtPart (Fig. 3). This indicates that the use of MixtPart results in substantial improvement.

Our results also suggest that for the commonly used partitioning strategies, particularly for OnePart and GenePart, increased taxon sampling improves branch support, regardless of

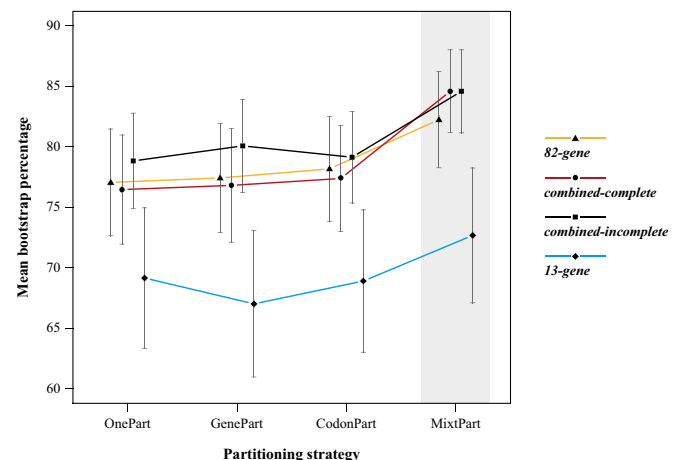


Fig. 2. Mean ML BPs of the bipartition trees inferred using ML for each of the four matrices and four partitioning strategies. SEs around the means are indicated, and the MixtPart partitioning strategy is highlighted in gray. The bipartition trees inferred from the *combined-incomplete* and *13-gene* matrices were pruned to match the taxon sampling of the *82-gene* and *combined-complete* matrices.

more taxa sampled for a modest number of characters. Most importantly, our analyses indicate that searching with a Bayesian mixture models leads to an optimal, a posteriori data partitioning strategy, which not only improves the branch support of phylogenetic trees but also minimizes the impact of missing data on phylogenetic decisiveness. Its use is likely to help resolve several remaining poorly resolved, major clades of angiosperms (e.g., Euasterids I and II and Ericales) (12) and to be more broadly useful in studies across the Tree of Life.

Materials and Methods

See *SI Appendix, SI Materials and Methods* for details on plastome sequencing, sequence alignment, and analyses of phylogenetic decisiveness, divergence time, and species diversification.

Phylogenetic Analyses. Bayesian and ML analyses were performed on four matrices (Table 1) as described above. The Bayesian analyses were implemented with the parallel version of BayesPhylogenies v2.0 (19) using a reversible-jump implementation of the mixture model as described by Venditti et al. (20). This approach allows the fitting of multiple models of sequence evolution to each character in an alignment without a priori partitioning. Two independent Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) analyses were performed, and the consistency of stationary-phase likelihood values and estimated parameter values was determined using Tracer v1.5. We ran each MCMC analysis for 10 million generations, sampling trees and parameters every 1,000 generations. Bayesian PPs were determined by

building a 50% majority-rule consensus tree from two MCMC analyses after discarding the 20% burn-in generations (Fig. 1 and *SI Appendix, Figs. S1 and S26–S28*).

The ML analyses were conducted using RAxML v7.2.8 (41) with the GTR+ Γ model. The best-scoring ML tree was obtained for each matrix using the rapid hill-climbing algorithm (41), and 1,000 bootstrap replicates were estimated using the standard bootstrap option. The BPs were summarized from all 1,000 bootstrap trees, and the bipartition tree was obtained by mapping these BPs to the best-scoring ML tree (*SI Appendix, Figs. S2–S17*) (42). We used four different partitioning strategies for our data analyses described above in *Results and Discussion*: OnePart (single data partition), GenePart (partitioned by gene), CodonPart (partitioned by codon), and MixtPart (described below). For the MixtPart approach, the data partitions identified in the Bayesian analyses were extracted from the output using a custom Perl script (*SI Appendix, SI Script*). This script selected the partition with the highest probability for each character. The matrices were then partitioned accordingly in RAxML.

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